

NEW YORK TIMES

13 March 1982

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4DEMOCRATS ASSAIL REAGAN INTELLIGENCE POLICIES

4BY ANDREW J. GLASS

4C. 1982 Cox News Service

WASHINGTON - A FRUSTRATED GROUP OF KEY DEMOCRATS ON CAPITOL HILL
CONTEND THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT WHAT PRESIDENT
REAGAN INTENDS TO DO IN LATIN AMERICA.

THEIR COMPLAINTS FOCUS ON WHAT THEY SEE AS A DEARTH OF INTELLIGENCE
DATA BEING SUPPLIED TO THE LEGISLATORS AS WELL AS A LACK OF CANDID
BRIEFINGS ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES IN THIS CRITICAL REGION.

THEIR GROWING RESTIVENESS, WHICH CAME TO LIGHT IN A SERIES OF
INTERVIEWS LAST WEEK, APPEARS TO THREATEN ANY SEMBLANCE OF A
COORDINATED BIPARTISAN APPROACH TOWARD MOUNTING PROBLEMS IN EL
SALVADOR AND ELSEWHERE IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN.

"THERE HAVE BEEN NO BRIEFINGS ABOUT LATIN AMERICA," SEN. GARY
HART, D-COLO., SAID. "WHAT WE HAVE HEARD HAS BEEN CURSORY AND
BLAND."

HART, A MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES AND A POTENTIAL
DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1984, SAID: "A KIND OF
ATTITUDINAL DISTRUST FOR CONGRESS EXISTS IN THIS ADMINISTRATION. AT
BOTTOM, THEY REGARD ALL PEOPLE IN CONGRESS AS IRRELEVANT BUFFOONS."

HART'S VIEWS, IF NOT HIS SHARP RHETORIC, WERE ECHOED BY ANOTHER
SENATE DEMOCRAT, JOSEPH BIDEN OF DELAWARE. SPEAKING HERE TO THE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS
ASSOCIATION, A GROUP OF LEADING NEWS EXECUTIVES, BIDEN REPORTEDLY
CASTIGATED REAGAN'S ADVISERS FOR FAILING TO SHARE ANY HARD DATA ON
THE INCREASINGLY VOLATILE SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA WITH THE SENATE
INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, ON WHICH BIDEN SERVES.

BIDEN SUGGESTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD END UP PAYING A HIGH
PRICE FOR ITS LACK OF CANDOR. HIS REMARKS WERE CONFIRMED BY HIS PRESS
SECRETARY, PETER SMITH.

ONE FOCAL POINT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC UNEASE IS A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED
LAST MONTH BY SEN. CHRISTOPHER DODD OF CONNECTICUT, A MEMBER OF THE
INTELLIGENCE PANEL, CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ENCOURAGE
UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN EL SALVADOR. THAT
APPROACH IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER M. HAIG
JR., WHO CONTENDS THAT CUBA AND NICARAGUA ARE TRYING TO FOMENT AN
ANTI-AMERICAN MARXIST UPRISAL IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN.